THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!

Fantastic Four

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

36 MAR

MARVEL COMICS GROUP 12¢

IND.

SOONER OR LATER SOMEONE WAS BOUND TO COME UP WITH AN EVIL GROUP LIKE THIS...SO WE THOUGHT WE'D BEAT 'EM TO IT!!

THE ATTACK OF THE EVIL F.F.... "THE FRIGHTFUL FOUR!"

HAVE THE FABULOUS F.F. FINALLY MET THEIR MASTERS IN:

"THE FRIGHTFUL FOUR!"

PROUDLY PRODUCED BY:
SMILIN' STAN LEE
and
JOLLY JACK KIRBY

INKED BY:
CHIC STONE

LETTERED BY:
ARTIE SIMEK

IT FINALLY HAPPENED! REED AND SUE HAVE PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED THEIR ENGAGEMENT!- AND THE WORLD'S PRESS GOES WILD!!

HOLD IT, FOLKS! JUST ONE MORE SCENE FOR THE NEWS REELS!

DON'T RUSH, GENTLEMEN! IT'S A PLEASURE!

WATCH IT, BOYS! DON'T MAKE BASHFUL BENJAMIN ANGRY!

HEY! GETCHER BLASTED ELBOW OUTTA MY KISSER!

OH, REED, MY DARLING! IT'S ALL SO WONDERFUL!

HIT 'EM WITH ANOTHER SPOTLIGHT, CHARLIE!

WHAT A COUPLE! I'LL BET THEY COULD NAME THEIR OWN PRICE IN HOLLYWOOD!

FINALLY, A FEW THOUSAND PICTURES LATER...

THAT'LL BE IT FOR NOW, BOYS! I DON'T WANT MY FIANCEE TO GET TIRED!

YOUR FIANCEE! OH, REED... MY HEART SKIPS A BEAT WHENEVER YOU SAY THAT!

HOLD IT, YOU GUYS! WHERE ARE YA *RUNNIN'* TO? I AINT TIRED! DON'TCHA WANT ANY PIN-UP PICTURES OF LOVEABLE *ME*??

SORRY, MR. GRIMM! WE'RE NOT WITH *SHOCK THEATRE!*

TELL 'IM TO CALL *"MONSTERS TO LAUGH WITH"!*

ONE SIDE, GENTS! I'M DELIVERIN' AN *ENGAGEMENT PRESENT!*

ANOTHER ONE! THEY'LL SOON BE ABLE TO OPEN UP A *STORE!*

CONGRATULATIONS, MR. RICHARDS! GEE, I NEVER THOUGHT I'D EVER GET TO SEE *MR. FANTASTIC* IN PERSON!

ANY CHANCE OF AN *AUTOGRAPH?*

OF *COURSE,* SON! HERE YOU ARE...!

HEY! WHAT'S GOIN' *ON* HERE? THIS IS NO BLASTED *PRESENT!*

IT'S FROM THE *YANCY STREET GANG!*

RUN FOR THE HILLS! IT'S A *BOMB!*

OH, *NO!* THEY *WOULDN'T!!*

EVERYBODY *OUT! FAST!* SUE --*QUICK,* DARLING! FOLLOW ME!

MOVE! I'LL TRY'N SMOTHER IT WITH MY PAWS!

HEY! WHAT KINDA COTTON-PICKIN' EXPLOSION IS *THAT???*

THWEEP!

FLOWERS! IT WAS JUST A *GAG!*

NOW YOU TELL US!

THANK HEAVEN!

THAT SINKS IT! WAIT'LL I GET MY MITTS ON THOSE CREEPS! I'LL PLASTER 'EM ALL OVER THE LANDSCAPE! I'LL MOP UP YANCY STREET WITH 'EM! I'LL--I'LL--

DON'T LOSE YOUR TEMPER, BEN DEAR! AFTER ALL, THERE WAS NO HARM DONE! LET'S JUST FORGET IT!

IN THEIR OWN MIXED-UP WAY, THEY WERE PROBABLY TRYING TO DO SOMETHING NICE FOR US!

NUTS! IN THE MOOD YOU'RE IN, YOU TWO LOVEBIRDS WOULD MAKE EXCUSES FOR DOCTOR DOOM! I'M CUTTIN' OUT!

WAIT FOR ME, BIG BUDDY!

SLAM!

FOR ONCE, SUE DEAR, I DON'T MIND THEM LEAV-ING! WE'RE ALONE AT LAST...!

BUT, ALL IS NOT QUITE AS BLISSFUL AS IT MIGHT SEEM! AT THAT VERY MOMENT, ON A LONELY WHARF AT THE WEST SIDE OF TOWN...

THE SANDMAN OUGHTA BE HERE ANY MINUTE!

AND HE BETTER NOT BE LATE! PASTE-POT PETE ISN'T USED TO BEING KEPT WAITING!

SUDDENLY...

THWUP

HEY! WHAT'S GOIN' ON?? WHERE'D ALL THIS COME FROM??

CAN'T YA GUESS, LITTLE FELLA?

THE SANDMAN!

THIS IS JUST TO SHOW YA WHICH ONE OF US IS GONNA BE TOP DOG!

IT SHOWS ME NOTHING, YOU CONCEITED FREAK! YOU MERELY TOOK ME BY SURPRISE! BUT, NOW--

YOU DON'T THINK THAT CORNY PASTE-GUN IS GONNA BOTHER ME, DO YA? I'VE TACKLED SPIDER-MAN AND LIVED TO TELL OF IT!

TRY SOMETHIN'! I DARE YA!

STOP, BOTH OF YOU! I DIDN'T CALL THIS MEETING FOR US TO FIGHT AMONG OURSELVES!

WE HAVE FAR BETTER FOES TO VENT OUR POWER UPON!

THE WIZARD!

AT LAST!

BUT, "HOW CAN THIS BE?" YOU ASK! IN *STRANGE TALES* #118 WE SAW THE WIZARD FLOATING HELPLESSLY INTO SPACE, TO HIS DOOM! WELL, LET'S GO BACK A SHORT TIME...

I *TOLD* YA I COULD USE MY SANDY BODY TO GET US OUTA THAT PEN!

GOOD THING I HAD A PASTE GUN AND COSTUME STASHED AWAY OUT HERE!

BUT, THE GUARDS'LL PICK UP OUR TRAIL SOON! WE'VE GOTTA PUT A LOT OF SCENERY BETWEEN US AND THIS COUNTY!

RIGHT! AND I KNOW JUST HOW TO *DO* IT! WATCH ME SNAG THAT LOW-FLYING JET WITH MY PASTE GUN!

WAIT! COME *BACK!*

GOOD WORK, PETE! GLAD YA KNOW HOW TO *FLY* THIS CRATE! NOW *TAKE OFF!*

AS LONG AS I HAVE MY PASTE GUN, I CAN DO *ANYTHING!* THEY'LL NEVER CATCH ME AGAIN!

HEY, *LOOK!* SOMEONE FLOATIN' IN THE AIR! GOIN' HIGHER AND HIGHER! WHAT IN SAM HILL--??

THAT'S NOT JUST *SOMEONE*, YOU UNIMAGINATIVE BOOR! DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE THE--*WIZARD??*

I'LL GET CLOSE AS I CAN WHILE YOU SNATCH HIM! COULD BE WE CAN *USE* THAT GENT!

WHAT *FOR?* TO GIVE US *FLOATIN' LESSONS?*

DURING MY BATTLE WITH THE ACCURSED *TORCH*, MY ANTI-GRAV DEVICE JAMMED! YOU SAVED ME FROM SUFFOCATING IN THE ATMOSPHERE! I SHALL NOT FORGET THAT!

OKAY, SO WHERE'S THE *PAY-OFF?*

SOME CHANCE! I SUPPOSE THERE'S A MILLION *INVISIBLE GALS* JUST WAITIN' FOR YA!

I SHALL NOT REPAY YOU WITH MONEY! I SHALL DO SOMETHING FAR BETTER! I SHALL ACCEPT YOU AS *PARTNERS!* I SHALL *LEAD* YOU IN A CRUSADE OF CRIME!

NUTS TO *THAT!* I'D RATHER HAVE THE *DOUGH!*

DON'T BE A *FOOL*, SANDMAN! WITH A BRAIN LIKE THE *WIZARD'S* GUIDING US, WE COULD EVEN BE THE MASTERS OF THE *FANTASTIC FOUR!*

THE *FANTASTIC FOUR!* HMMM... WHAT AN IDEA! IF WE COULD FIND A SUITABLE *FEMALE*, WE COULD BE THEIR EXACT *EVIL COUNTERPART!*

NO, BUT I *DO* KNOW OF A FEMALE! SHE'D BE *PERFECT!*

I'LL NEED A FEW WEEKS--AND THEN WE'LL MEET AGAIN!

OKAY? EVERYTHING CLEAR? NOW, BACK TO THE PRESENT...

YOU WILL BE GLAD TO HEAR THAT I HAVE FIXED MY MAGNIFICENT ANTI-GRAV DEVICE! IT WORKS *PERFECTLY* NOW!

YEAH, YEAH! BIG DEAL! WHAT ABOUT **THE *GIRL*??**

DID YOU FIND SOMEONE WITH A POWER GREAT ENOUGH TO MATCH THAT OF SUSAN STORM??

AH! THAT IS THE TROUBLE! THE FEMALE I HAVE BEEN CONSIDERING MAY BE EVEN ***MORE*** POWERFUL!

GREAT! THEN WHAT ARE WE *WAITING* FOR? WHERE *IS* SHE?

FIRST, LET ME DESCRIBE HER TO YOU! IT COULD BE DANGEROUS! SHE MIGHT BE MORE POWERFUL THAN *WE!*

SPEAK FOR *YOURSELF*, PAL! *NOBODY* CAN TOP *SANDMAN!*

I HAD HEARD RUMORS OF HER FOR YEARS! FINALLY, I WENT TO THE SMALL MEDITERRANEAN ISLAND WHERE SHE HAD BEEN LAST SEEN! I FOUND THAT THE *POLICE* WERE ALSO ON HER TRAIL...!

TAKE COVER, STRANGER! THERE IS MUCH *DANGER* IN THIS PLACE!

WHERE IS *FRANCOIS!* SHE SHALL NOT ESCAPE US *AGAIN!* WE HAVE HER *TRAPPED* NOW!

I AM *HERE*, MON CAPITAN! BUT-- *HELLLP!* SHE HAS *CAUGHT* ME! COME QUICK!

COURAGE, FRANCOIS! SHE SHALL NOT TRIUMPH THIS TIME! WE HAVE HER *TRAPPED* NOW!

AND THEN... I *SAW* HER!

FOOLS! IT IS *I, MADAM MEDUSA*, WHO HAS TRAPPED *YOU!*

OF WHAT USE ARE YOUR CLUMSY GUNS AND FISTS AGAINST MY UNCONQUERABLE *HAIR!*

WHIP!

UP!

SHE WAS *SUPERB!* *INVINCIBLE!* LIKE AN EVIL GODDESS! SHE ESCAPED HER PURSUERS WITH EASE!

OKAY! OKAY! SHE SOUNDS GREAT! BUT WHERE *IS* SHE?? DID YOU GET HER TO JOIN US?

OF *COURSE!* EVEN *SHE* HAD HEARD OF THE *WIZARD!* SHE WAS HAPPY TO HAVE ME LEAD HER! SHE AWAITS US NOW!

THEN LET'S *GO!*

AS FOR *ME*, I SHALL DON A NEW COSTUME, AS BEFITS MY NEW RANK AS LEADER OF *THE FRIGHTFUL FOUR!* WE SHALL BE *SUPREME!*

MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE BAXTER BUILDING...

HOLY HANNAH! WADDAYA WANT ME TO DO WITH ALL THESE ENGAGEMENT PRESENTS THAT ARE POURIN' IN, PAL?

BETTER TAKE THEM TO OUR STOREROOM IN THE SUB-BASEMENT! IT'S GETTING TOO CROWDED UP HERE, BEN!

IF I GOTTA DO THIS *AGAIN* WITH YOUR *WEDDIN'* PRESENTS, I'M TAKIN' A POWDER!

MISS STORM! I'M FROM THE *CATERERS!* WE HAVE ARRANGE-MENTS TO MAKE!

ARE YOU READY TO INSPECT YOUR *TROUSSEAU* YET, MY DEAR?

I CAN'T WAIT MUCH LONGER TO DO YOUR HAIR, MA'AM!

THIS WILL ONLY TAKE A MINUTE, MISS STORM!

I'M FROM *BRIDE AND GROOM* MAGAZINE!

SAY, SIS-- GOT A MINUTE? I WANNA *SHOW* YOU SOME-THING!

JOHNNY STORM! IF THERE IS ONE THING I DEFINITELY *HAVEN'T* GOT, IT'S A *MINUTE!*

CAN IT WAIT TILL *LATER?*

I GUESS SO! BUT YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE MISSING!

NOW THEN, ABOUT YOUR WEDDING GUEST LIST...

JUST LIKE A *GIRL!* SHE'D RATHER WASTE TIME WITH THOSE DULL WEDDING PLANS THAN SEE MY NEW LITTLE DISCOVERY!

ALL I HAVE TO DO IS SHOOT A FIREBALL THRU THAT CHEMICAL SCREEN, AND THEN...

RED

YELLOW

BLUE

THE HEAT MAKES THE CHEMICALS SPURT OUT, COLORING THE FIREBALLS! AND PRESTO-- *INSTANT COLOR FIREWORKS!* THEY'LL BE A *SENSATION* AT THE WEDDING!

NOW, I'LL INCREASE THE SIZE OF THE CHEMICAL STREAM, AND GIVE IT A REAL TEST!

GUNG HO!

WOWEEE! I'LL BET I COULD MAKE A FORTUNE RENTING MYSELF OUT TO DISNEY-LAND! WHAT A WHIRLING PIN-WHEEL! I'M A GENIUS!

BUT, A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY, OTHER EYES ARE WATCHING THE SAME COLOR SPECTACULAR! EVIL EYES! SCHEMING EYES! THE EYES OF...

IT'S THE TORCH, SHOWING OFF WITH THAT BLASTED FLAME POWER OF HIS! HOW I HATE THAT KID!

LET HIM HAVE HIS MOMENT OF PLEASURE! ONCE WE STRIKE, IT'LL BE ALL OVER FOR HIM! FOR ALL OF THEM!

BUT WHEN DO WE ATTACK?? WHERE DID THE WIZARD DISAPPEAR TO?

HEY! WHAT WAS THAT??

I DUNNO! IT WENT BY SO FAST--!

DO NOT BE ALARMED, MY FRIENDS! IT IS ONLY YOUR LEADER, IN HIS NEW GARB!

I WAS TESTING MY ANTI-GRAVITY DEVICE!

IT ALLOWS ME TO SOAR AND DESCEND LIKE A BIRD! HENCE-FORTH, I SHALL CALL MYSELF THE WINGLESS WIZARD!

CALL YOURSELF WHATEVER YOU WANT TO! BUT, IF WE'RE EVER GONNA ATTACK THE F.F., THIS IS THE TIME TO DO IT!

PETE IS RIGHT! WHEN DO WE GET TO SEE THAT MADAM MEDUSA OF YOURS? OR DOESN'T SHE REALLY EXIST?

SHE *EXISTS*, GENTLEMEN! FORGIVE THE DELAY, BUT I HAD TO DESIGN AN APPROPRIATE COSTUME FOR *HER*, TOO!

I AM *MADAM MEDUSA!*

LOOK AT THE LENGTH OF THAT *HAIR!*

HEY! HE WASN'T *KIDDIN'!* YOU'RE EVERYTHING HE *SAID* YOU WERE, LADY! WE'RE GONNA DO JUST *FINE!*

WHY DOES *HE* HAVE NO COSTUME?

I DON'T *NEED* ONE, BABY! WAIT'LL YOU SEE ME IN ACTION--THEN YA'LL KNOW *WHY!*

LATER, AS ONE OF THE MOST COLORFUL ENGAGEMENT PARTIES OF ALL TIME DRAWS TO AN END...

SOME MORE DANISH PASTRY, PROFESSOR XAVIER?

GO, GIRL-- *GO!*

THANK YOU, MY DEAR!

YOU DO A PRETTY SHARP *WATUSI* FOR A LAD WITH *WINGS*, ANGEL!

THERE ARE TIMES WHEN EVEN AN *IMMORTAL* MAY ENVY A HUMAN, RICHARDS! THIS IS ONE SUCH TIME!

MAY THE BLESSINGS OF *ASGARD* GRACE YOUR COMING MARRIAGE!

IF ONLY BRUCE BANNER COULD BE HERE!

IT'S SURE TOUGH PRETENDING THAT WE *X-MEN* DON'T KNOW THE PROF!

WHO'S THE BILLIARD-BALL-HEAD OVER THERE, BABY?

I BELIEVE THAT'S PROFESSOR XAVIER, BEN DEAR! THEY SAY HE'S AS BRILLIANT AS REED HIMSELF!

LATER, A SILENT THOUGHT-COMMAND RINGS OUT...

WE MUST NOT OVERSTAY OUR WELCOME! LET US RETURN TO SCHOOL!

IT'S THE PROFESSOR!

I GUESS THE PARTY'S ENDING NOW!

THE X-MEN HAVE GENEROUSLY OFFERED TO TAKE ME TO A TAXI! MAY I WISH YOU, AND MISS STORM, A LIFE OF HAPPINESS, MR. RICHARDS!

YOU ARE VERY KIND, PROFESSOR! I TRUST WE SHALL MEET AGAIN, OFTEN!

AFTER WE'RE MARRIED, YOU *MUST* COME TO VISIT US!

I'M SURE THEY WOULD HAVE INVITED *ME* IF THEY KNEW WHERE TO FIND ME, SO I'LL JUST HELP MYSELF TO A PIECE OF CAKE!

UH OH! I'D BETTER LEAVE! THERE'S SOME KIND OF *SHIP* COMING!

BUT, LITTLE DOES THE WEB-SPINNING PARTY CRASHER REALIZE THAT THE APPROACHING CRAFT DOES *NOT* CONTAIN NEW GUESTS--

WE'LL LAND ON THEIR ROOF SILENTLY! THEY'LL NEVER HEAR US!

...BUT, RATHER -- ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS TEAMS OF ALL TIME-- *THE FRIGHTFUL FOUR!*

TAKE YOUR POSITIONS! YOU ALL *KNOW* WHAT TO DO!

FORTY-FIVE MINUTES LATER...

THE GUESTS HAVE ALL DEPARTED! THE *THING* IS ASLEEP! QUICK, MEDUSA...

STAND BACK! I SHALL NOT FAIL!

BEN, WE'RE HAVING COFFEE IN THE OTHER ROOM...

OH, I WON'T DISTURB HIM! HE'S FAST ASLEEP!

SLOWLY, SILENTLY, LIKE A WHISPERING WRAITH, THE LONG, LOVELY TRESSES OF *MADAM MEDUSA* STEAL TOWARDS THE LIGHT SWITCH, AS THOUGH EACH HAS A MIND OF ITS OWN!

AND THEN...

CLICK!

I CAN'T MISS AT THIS RANGE!

NOW, PETE! USE THE INFRA-RED SNIPER-SCOPE ON YOUR PASTE GUN! IT WILL LET YOU SEE YOUR TARGET IN THE DARK!

WHIPP

PERFECT! WITH HIS HANDS PASTED TOGETHER--UNABLE TO MAKE A SOUND--HE'S *HELPLESS!*

AND NOW FOR THE MOMENTOUS FEAT WHICH ONLY THE *FRIGHTFUL FOUR* WOULD DARE TO ATTEMPT--THE ACTUAL INVASION OF THE F.F.'s HEADQUARTERS!

ALTHOUGH I HAVE EVERY CONFIDENCE IN PASTE-POT PETE'S ADHESIVE POWER, THIS *SLEEP SPRAY* WILL MAKE *DOUBLY* CERTAIN THAT YOU DO NOT TROUBLE US AGAIN!

AND *NOW*, GENTLEMEN... WE HAVE OTHER MATTERS TO ATTEND TO!

I COULD HAVE SWORN I HEARD SOMETHING FALL!

BEN! WHA— WHAT HAPPENED???

SOMETHING'S WRONG! I'D BETTER USE MY INVISIBLE FORCE FIELD! OH! JUST IN TIME!

SPAT!

SUE! WHAT IS IT??

THANK HEAVEN! HERE COMES REED!

TAKING IN THE SITUATION WITH ONE QUICK GLANCE, MR. FANTASTIC GOES INTO INSTANT ACTION...

AH, THE GREAT REED RICHARDS! I HAVE WAITED FOR THIS MOMENT!

IT SOUNDS LIKE--IT IS--THE WIZARD! AND PASTE-POT PETE! BUT HOW--?

I HEAR SOMEONE MOVING BEHIND ME! HAVEN'T TIME TO SWING AROUND!

BAM!

REMEMBER ME, RICHARDS?? YOU'D BETTER! I'M THE GUY WHO'S GONNA FINISH YA OFF NOW!

THE SANDMAN!

HOW ABOUT CALLIN' US BY OUR NEW NAME, PAL? IT'S THE FRIGHTFUL FOUR!

BUT THERE'S ONLY THREE OF YOU!

THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK! JUST WAIT TILL LATER!

BY THE WAY, SANDMAN--WHILE I ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR POWER, THEY DON'T CALL *ME* MISTER FANTASTIC FOR *NOTHING!*

HUH--??

THEN, BEFORE THE STARTLED SANDMAN HAS TIME TO REFORM HIS AMAZING BODY, REED RICHARDS *STRIKES!*

THWACK!

REED! DARLING--LOOK *OUT!* OHH--I WARNED HIM TOO *LATE!*

YOU'RE PRETTY *FAST,* RICHARDS! BUT YOU CAN'T BE *EVERYWHERE* AT ONCE!

HE FORGOT *ME,* WIZ! I'LL *HOLD* HIM THERE TILL YOU GIVE HIM A DOSE OF YOUR SLEEP SPRAY!

SUE! YOUR INVISIBLE FORCE FIELD! REMEMBER WHAT WE PRACTICED LAST WEEK??

RESPONDING INSTANTLY TO HER LOVED ONE'S CRY, THE *INVISIBLE GIRL* HURLS TWO INVISIBLE *FORCE BALLS* UNERRINGLY AT HER TWO TARGETS!

KONK

THEY *WORK!* YOU WERE *RIGHT,* MY DEAREST!

WHAP!

NOW *SANDMAN* IS TRYING TO REFORM HIMSELF! IF ONLY I CAN HOLD HIM WITHIN ANOTHER FORCE FIELD!

BUT, HOW *LONG* CAN I HOLD HIM? HE'S SO *POWERFUL!* IF ONLY THE *TORCH* HADN'T LEFT!

MEANWHILE, OUTSIDE THE WINDOW, THE FEMALE MEMBER OF THE FRIGHTFUL FOUR LOWERS HERSELF SLOWLY FROM THE ROOF'S EDGE...

THIS IS THE WINDOW! NOW TO SWING MYSELF IN....!

I SEEM TO HEAR SOMETHING *BEHIND* ME! BUT, I'M AFRAID TO TURN! I MUSTN'T RELAX MY FORCE FIELD AROUND SANDMAN!

SOMETHING *SEIZING* ME! *HOLDING* ME! I CAN'T MOVE! OH NO--*NO!*

OH YES, *YES*, MY DEAR! YES *INDEED!*

MAY I WISH YOU PLEASANT DREAMS, MISS STORM?

WIZARD! DO YOU REALIZE WHAT WE'VE *DONE??* WE'VE BEATEN THE *FANTASTIC FOUR!*

NOT *QUITE!* THERE IS STILL THE *TORCH!*

HE'LL BE *EASY!* WHERE *IS* HE?

IT'S ABOUT *TIME* YOU USED THAT SLEEP STUFF OF YOURS! I COULDN'T HAVE HELD RICHARDS' *LEGS* DOWN MUCH LONGER!

IMAGINE *US* BEATING THE INVINCIBLE *FANTASTIC FOUR!* I CAN'T GET *OVER* IT! WE DID WHAT NOBODY *ELSE* COULD EVER DO! NOT THE *SUB-MARINER!* NOT *DOCTOR DOOM,* OR THE *HULK!* NOBODY--EXCEPT THE *FRIGHTFUL FOUR!*

DON'T GLOAT TOO SOON! OUR JOB IS ONLY *PARTIALLY* COMPLETE! WE MUST NOW MAKE CERTAIN THAT THEIR DEFEAT IS *PERMANENT!*

AND *THIS* IS THE BEST WAY TO *DO* IT! I MERELY REMOVE SOME SPARE ANTI-GRAV DISCS FROM MY HELMET AND FASTEN THEM ONTO OUR FALLEN FOES!

NOTICE HOW *EASILY* IT IS DONE!

WE SHALL START WITH THE *THING!* HE HAS LONG BEEN A THORN IN MY SIDE!

HEY! I'M BEGINNIN' TO GET THE PITCH, CHUM!

IT'S SO SIMPLE --SO FOOLPROOF! SO *PERFECT!*

MEANWHILE, SILENTLY HIDING IN THE KITCHEN, WE FIND...

SOMETHING *TERRIBLE* HAS HAPPENED IN THERE--I *KNOW* IT! IF ONLY I COULD *HELP!*

THEY HAVE RISKED THEIR LIVES SO MANY TIMES TO AID *ME!* SURELY *I* CAN DO NO LESS FOR *THEM!*

SLOWLY, STEADILY, WITH THE UNERRING INSTINCTS OF THE SIGHTLESS, ALICIA STEALS TO THE SIDE OF THE FALLEN SUE STORM...

I'VE *FOUND* HER! IF MY LUCK WILL JUST HOLD OUT A LITTLE LONGER!

THIS IS THE BELT COMPARTMENT WHERE SHE KEEPS HER *FLARE GUN!*

THEN, RELYING ON TOUCH ALONE, AS WHEN SHE SCULPTS THE LOVELY STATUES FOR WHICH SHE IS RENOWNED, THE BLIND BEAUTY PUTS THE FLATTENED SECTIONS OF THE SIGNAL DEVICE TOGETHER IN SECONDS!

I MUSTN'T FAIL! I CAN'T LET THEM DOWN!

AT THAT MOMENT, IN A NEIGHBORHOOD GARAGE, A SCANT FEW BLOCKS AWAY...

SHE'S A REAL *BOMB*, EH, JOHNNY?

DON'T BREATHE TOO HARD ON THAT ALUMINUM ENGINE, TORCH! I JUST SPENT ALL MORNING *POLISHING* IT!

WELL, SHE'S NO *FANTASTI-CAR*, STEVE, BUT I GUESS SHE'LL TAKE YOU WHERE YOU WANNA GO!

LISTEN, HOW ABOUT ME BRINGIN' *MY* LITTLE STING-RAY OVER! I WANNA SHOW YOU SOME MODIFICATIONS I MADE ON THE FUEL INJECTION SYSTEM! AND I WANNA WATCH *YOUR* EYES POP WHEN I START TO REV UP *MY* LITTLE FOUR-WHEELED FIRE CRACKER!

LOOK, JOHNNY! IS SOMEONE TRYIN' TO IMITATE YOUR F. F. SIGNAL??

HUH? WHERE? *HEY!* THAT'S NO *IMITATION!* THAT'S OUR *RED DANGER* FLARE!

ANY-THING *WE* CAN DO, FELLA?

YEAH! SAY A PRAYER FOR WHOEVER I'M GONNA HAVE TO *FIGHT!* *I'LL MOW 'IM DOWN* FOR TAKING ME AWAY FROM THAT DREAM-BOAT!

FLAME ON!

WOWEEE! WHAT A *TAKE-OFF!*

AND, A FEW BLOCKS AWAY...

ANOTHER ONE! GIVE ME THAT GUN, YOU!

SOMETHING HAS *CAUGHT* ME! BUT, AT LEAST I FIRED THE FLARE! IF--IF ONLY SOMEONE *SAW* IT!

IT'S THE *THING'S* GAL FRIEND! LEMME *HAVE* HER! SHE'LL KEEP 'IM FROM GETTIN' TOO LONELY!

I'LL AFFIX AN ANTI-GRAV DEVICE TO *HER*, ALSO!

YOU ARE AS DIABOLICAL AS YOU ARE CLEVER, WIZARD! NEVER HAVE I SEEN SUCH TRUE VILLAINY!

THANK YOU, MY DEAR MADAM MEDUSA! I AM TOUCHED BY YOUR SINCERE WORDS OF PRAISE!

THERE THEY GO! WHAT A SURPRISE *THEY'LL* GET WHEN THEY WAKE UP!

NOTHING CAN SAVE THEM NOW! THEY'RE *DOOMED!*

THUS, WITH A POWERFUL ANTI-GRAV DISC ATTACHED TO EACH OF THEM, THE HELPLESS, STILL-SLEEPING QUARTET FLOAT SILENTLY INTO THE AIR--HIGHER AND HIGHER--ON WHAT MAY WELL BE THEIR FINAL JOURNEY...!

BUT, AT THAT MOMENT...

SOMEONE'S ON OUR ROOF--AND IT'S NOT MY *PARTNERS!*

I'LL JUST DROP IN ON 'EM WITH A LITTLE FLAMING *POWER DIVE!*

HOLD IT, KIDDIES! YOU'RE NOT GOIN' ANY-WHERE!

THE *TORCH!*

WELL, WELL! IF IT ISN'T MY OLD PAL, THE *WIZARD*, IN SOME NEW DUDS!

AND THE *SANDMAN*--AND *PASTE-POT* HIMSELF! DON'T BE IMPATIENT, BOYS! I'LL TAKE CARE OF *ALL* OF YOU!

STOP HIM!

HE'S TOO *FAST!*

HE MADE IT INTO THE SHIP!! BUT HE ONLY *TRAPPED* HIMSELF! THERE'S NO WAY *OUT!*

SPAT!

ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS MOVE IN SLOWLY, AND-- *WHA--?* *LOOK!*

HE SLAMMED THE HATCH DOOR SHUT! HE LOCKED US *OUT!*

HE'S TAKING OFF *WITHOUT* US! WE'VE GOTTA GO *AFTER* 'IM!

SLAM!

AND, INSIDE THE SHIP...

DON'T BRING YOUR FLAME ANY *CLOSER!*

I WOULDN'T *DREAM* OF IT, WIZ! UNLESS YOU REFUSE TO TAKE ME TO MY PARTNERS! THE CHOICE IS *YOURS*, MISTER!

I'LL *DO* IT! I'LL FLY YOU TO THEM! BUT IT'S TOO *LATE!* YOU CAN'T SAVE THEM *NOW!*

BUT, *IS* IT TOO LATE? HIGH ABOVE, THE RARIFIED AIR OF THE SUB-STRATOSPHERE HAS REVIVED THE CAPTIVE QUARTET, AND...

HEY! WHAT'S GOIN' *ON* HERE??

IT'S NO NIGHTMARE, BEN! IT'S *REAL!* IT'S THE *WIZARD'S* HANDI-WORK!

FIRST TIME I EVER HAD A NIGHTMARE WITHOUT EATIN' PICKLES!

REED! WHAT CAN WE *DO?* IS THERE ANY *HOPE??*

THERE'S *ALWAYS* HOPE, DARLING!

I'LL FORM AN AIR POCKET AROUND THE THREE OF YOU FOR AS LONG AS I CAN!

THEY'LL BE SAFE FOR A WHILE! BUT-- *I'M* SUFFOCATING! HAVE TO *THINK!*

THERE'S *GOT* TO BE A WAY OUT! THINK, REED-- *THINK!!*

BUT--EVERY-THING'S GETTING BLURRY! NEED AIR-- HAVE TO HAVE *AIR!!*

THEN, JUST BEFORE THE VALIANT CRUSADER COMPLETELY BLACKS OUT...

A SHIP! IF I CAN JUST REACH IT!! OUR ONLY CHANCE! I'VE GOT TO STRETCH-- STRETCH--

WHAT LUCK! HE SAW ME! I GOT YOU, REED! I GOT YOU!

THEY'RE ALL UP THERE--TIED TOGETHER! I'VE GOT TO PULL GENTLY-- SMOOTHLY-- MUSTN'T JAR THEM LOOSE!

THEN, FINALLY...

JOHNNY--YOU SAVED US! ANOTHER FEW SECONDS-- AND IT WOULD HAVE BEEN TOO LATE!

BUT, YOU'VE GOT TO REMOVE THE ANTI-GRAV DISCS FROM US!

AND SO...

EASY, BEN! THIS IS THE LAST OF 'EM! YOU'RE OKAY NOW!

OKAY, REED... THAT DOES IT! WHAT DO WE DO NEXT??

WE'VE GOT TO GO AFTER THE OTHER THREE BEFORE THEY ESCAPE!

AWW, CAN'T I JUST CLOBBER HIM A LITTLE BEFORE WE START AGAIN?? IT'LL ONLY TAKE A COUPLE O' SECONDS!

NOT NOW, BEN! WE STILL NEED THE WIZARD TO HANDLE THIS SHIP FOR US!

LATER ON, I'LL MATCH YOU FOR HIM, BIG BUDDY! HOW'S THAT?

BUT, SUDDENLY...

LOOK! IT'S OUR POGO PLANE!

THE OTHER THREE MUST HAVE GRABBED IT FROM OUR HQ. HANGER! THEY'RE COMING AFTER US!

FINE! IT'LL MAKE OUR JOB THAT MUCH EASIER!

ZOOMING ABOVE THE WIZARD'S CRAFT, IN THE SPEEDIER POGO PLANE, *SANDMAN* DROPS DOWN ATOP THE SLOWER SHIP...

THEY CAN'T ESCAPE ME *NOW!*

I'LL *HARDEN* THE PARTICLES OF MY BODY, SO THAT MY INCREASED MASS WILL *FORCE* THEIR SHIP DOWN!

BUT, IT ISN'T *WORKIN'!* THEY'RE GOIN' FASTER THAN *EVER!*

WHAT A *FOOL* I AM! I FORGOT --WEIGHT AND MASS CAN'T AFFECT *ANTI-GRAV!* AND THE WIZARD'S SHIP IS POWERED BY HIS ANTI-GRAV DISCS!

HANG ON, KIDDIES! I'M GONNA *PUNCH* THRU THE ROOF OF THIS TUB AND GRAB ME THAT SANDMAN!

HOLD IT, BEN! THE CHANGE IN AIR PRESSURE COULD MAKE US CRASH! THERE'S AN *EASIER* WAY!

THE SANDMAN CAN'T BOTHER US NOW, BUT WE'VE GOT TO GET THE POGO PLANE! *YOU* CAN DO IT, SUE! YOUR INVISIBLE FORCE FIELD CAN MAKE IT *STALL!*

I'LL *TRY,* REED! I'LL WAIT TILL IT DIVES CLOSER TO US! HERE IT COMES--*NOW!*

SOMETHING'S AFFECTING THE SHIP'S ENGINES! SHE'S GOING OUT OF CONTROL!!

GOOD WORK, SUE DARLING! YOU *DID* IT!

WE'RE *SPINNING!* CAN'T *STOP* HER! WE'RE GOING TO *CRASH!*

THEN, BEFORE THE CAREENING SHIP CAN HIT THE GROUND, SUE STORM MAKES ONE LAST HERCULEAN EFFORT, AND A CUSHION OF INVISIBLE FORCE BREAKS THE AIRCRAFT'S FALL!

LOOK! WE STOPPED FALLING! WE'RE GONNA LAND *SAFELY!*

BUT, THAT FINAL BIT OF EXERTION PROVES TOO MUCH FOR THE HEROIC GIRL...

SIS! REED, IS--IS SHE *ALL RIGHT??*

YES, JOHNNY! SHE MERELY BLACKED OUT FROM THE TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF ENERGY SHE EXPENDED! IT'S *BEST* THIS WAY! SHE NEEDS THE REST!

THE POGO PLANE'S DOWN! IF THOSE RAT FINKS *ESCAPE...!*

THEY WON'T IF *WE* CAN HELP IT, BEN!

OKAY, WIZARD-- *LAND* THIS TUB!! AND I MEAN *NOW!!*

BUT, OF *COURSE,* MY HOT-TEMPERED YOUNG FIRE-BRAND!

AND, AS SOON AS THE SHIP TOUCHES DOWN...

THERE'S THE *SANDMAN!* HE'S STILL GROGGY FROM THE SWIFT DESCENT!

STEP LIVELY THERE, CUDDLES! THIS IS THE END OF THE LINE!

KEEP YOUR EYE ON HIM, JOHNNY! I'M GOING AFTER THE OTHER TWO!

HERE COMES RICHARDS! I'LL *STILL* HAVE A CHANCE TO POLISH HIM OFF WITH MY PASTE GUN!

THEY CAN'T HAVE GOTTEN FAR....!

OH, *NO* YOU DON'T! HE'S THE ONLY FIANCÉ I'VE *GOT*-- AND I'M NOT *LOSING* HIM!

A VOICE--FROM *NOWHERE!*

IT MUST BE THE *INVISIBLE GIRL!*

YOU WON'T ESCAPE ME! I KNOW YOU'RE HERE SOMEWHERE! I'LL USE MY FLOWING TRESSES TO BLANKET THE AREA UNTIL-- WHA--? NO! DON'T!!

THOSE TRESSES OF YOURS WON'T BE ABLE TO DO MUCH "FLOWING", DEARIE-- NOT WHILE THEY'RE COATED WITH PASTE FROM YOUR PARTNER'S LITTLE POP-GUN!

THWAP!

WHO IS SHE, REED? WHERE DID SHE COME FROM? SHE'S THE MOST MENACING FEMALE I'VE EVER SEEN!

I DON'T KNOW, DEAR! I'VE NEVER SEEN A POWER SUCH AS THE ONE SHE POSSESSES WITH HER UNCANNY HAIR!

REED! SUE! HIT THE DIRT! THE WIZARD BROKE LOOSE! HE AND SANDMAN ARE BLOWING UP THE SHIP! TAKE COVER!!

BUT, BEFORE A MOVE CAN BE MADE...!

LONG, TORTUROUS MINUTES LATER, THE GALLANT FOURSOME RECOVER, ONLY TO FIND...

JOHNNY! ARE--ARE THE OTHERS ALL RIGHT??

YEAH, REED--BUT THE FRIGHTFUL FOUR--THEY'VE ALL DISAPPEARED!

MEBBE THEY GOT BLOWN SKY HIGH WITH THEIR BLASTED SHIP!

I'M AFRAID NOT, BEN! IT WAS ALL TOO CLEVERLY DONE!

THEY DESTROYED THEIR SHIP SO THAT WE WOULDN'T DISCOVER THE WIZARD'S ANTI-GRAVITY SECRET!

THEN, THEY HAD ANOTHER MEANS OF ESCAPE!

THEY MUST HAVE FLED IN PANIC, NOT KNOWING THE BLAST KNOCKED US OUT! THEY DIDN'T EVEN TRY TO TAKE OUR POGO PLANE--LUCKILY FOR US!

THEY'RE BEATEN FOR NOW-- BUT THEY'LL BE MORE HUNGRY FOR REVENGE THAN EVER AFTER THIS!

THEY'RE SO POWERFUL --SO THOROUGHLY EVIL!! I-I'M FRIGHTENED!

DON'T WORRY, SIS! WE'RE NOT EXACTLY LIGHTWEIGHTS!

THE FRIGHTFUL FOUR! A HORRIBLE NAME!

ALMOST AS BAD AS THE YANCY STREET GANG!

OF COURSE THE F.F. WILL MEET THEIR EVIL COUNTERPARTS AGAIN! BUT, IT WON'T BE NEXT ISH! BECAUSE OUR NEXT SUPER-THRILLER IS A TALE THAT'S LITERALLY OUT OF THIS WORLD! AND, WHILE YOU'RE SAVING YOUR MONEY FOR A WEDDING PRESENT FOR SUE, BE SURE TO LEAVE ENOUGH FOR F.F. #37--EVEN OUR COMPETITORS WOULDN'T DARE MISS IT!